



INFO-ALERT

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INFO-ALERT brings to your attention a selection of abstracts of current articles and new materials from American publications on current political, economic, social issues and trends in the United States. These materials are available upon request from the **Information Resource Center**.

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POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. **THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY OF THE UNITED STATES**

The White House, March 2006, 54 pages

On March 16, 2006, the White House released President Bush's second term National Security Strategy (NSS), which reflects the President's most solemn obligation: to protect the security of the American people. The NSS explains how U.S. policy makers are working to protect the American people, advance American interests, enhance global security, and expand global liberty and prosperity.

2. **ASIAN ANCHORS SHIFT**

James Kitfield

National Journal, November 12, 2005, 6 pages

The long-term success of the Bush administration's Asian strategy will likely depend on its ability to reshape and reinvigorate its strategic relationships in the region, particularly with the two nations that host the bulk of U.S. military forces in Asia: Japan and South Korea.

3. **EARLY WARNING: PREPARING FOR THE POST-TERRORISM ERA**

Gregory R. Copley

Defense and Foreign Affairs Strategic Policy, September 2005, 3 pages

Now is the time for America's national planners to look beyond the current age of terrorism, notes the author: policymakers must plan for the future because terrorism is a response to a social condition that will pass. This future may not include nation-states as the primary form of sovereignty. Transnational organizations may supplant traditional nation-states, but the role of conventional forces will remain important.

4. **DAVID'S FRIEND GOLIATH**

Michael Mandelbaum

Foreign Policy, January/February 2005, 7 pages

"The rest of the world complains that American hegemony is reckless, arrogant and insensitive...[but] the world's guilty secret is that it enjoys the security and stability the U.S. provides," notes Michael Mandelbaum, professor of American foreign policy at the John Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. He explains how American political and military systems have played an effective role in international conflict resolution, and ensured the free flow of international trade. The alternative to the role the U.S. plays in the world is not better global governance, but less of it – and that would make the world a far more dangerous and less prosperous place.

5. **WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? LIBERAL INSTITUTIONS AND STABILITY IN CHANGING SOCIETIES**

William Anthony Hay

Orbis, Winter 2006, 19 pages

Is it possible to export democracy? That question underlies current U.S. foreign policy, and answering it requires an operational definition of democracy that distinguishes its essential attributes from circumstantial ones. William Hay, assistant professor of history at Mississippi State University, argues that democracy typically emerges from within a society, and imposing it externally presents further challenges while risking a backlash.

6. **WHY FEDERALISM MATTERS**

Pietro S. Nivola

Brookings Policy Brief, October 2005, 8 pages

According to Pietro Nivola, vice president and director of Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution, federalism -- a political system permitting a large measure of regional self-rule – is supposed to be "a preserver of (people's) liberties," and "a vehicle for flexible response to their problems." But the promise and practice of federalism are frequently at odds. In this article, several supposed advantages of federalism are weighed.

7. **STRATEGIC CULTURE AND AMERICAN EMPIRE**

Theo Farrell

The SAIS Review, Summer-Fall 2005, 16 pages

Regardless of whether the United States sees itself as possessing an empire, many throughout the world view the U.S. as an imperial power. Theo Farrell of King's College, London, examines links between U.S. foreign policy thinking and its strategic culture in perpetuating this situation.

ECONOMICS & TRADE

8. **ON LEADERSHIP**

Maurice R. Greenberg

National Interest, Winter 2005/2006, 5 pages

For the United States to secure its national interests, the country needs to conduct a consistent foreign policy and manage economic relations to build shared interests with other states. Maurice Greenberg, chairman and CEO of C.V. Starr & Co., comments on the leadership and national interests of the United States, stating that legacies of mistrust and hostility need to be overcome for the benefit of closer economic and trading ties to be realized.

9. **THE MORAL CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Benjamin M. Friedman

Society, January/February 2006, 8 pages

Although morality enjoins people and nations not to place undue emphasis on material concerns, it is clear that economic growth more often than not fosters greater opportunity, tolerance of diversity and dedication to democracy, says Benjamin Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy at Harvard University.

10. **INFORMATION ETHICS IN THE BUSINESS RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT**

Roberta Brody

Online, January/February 2006, 4 pages

Few business transactions do not either generate information or rely upon an exchange of information. Roberta Brody, associate professor of Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) at Queens College of the City University of New York, examines elements of both applied business ethics and information ethics, and discusses the issues, dilemmas, and challenges stemming from the duties and tasks of business information professionals.

SOCIAL ISSUES & VALUES, EDUCATION & THE ARTS

11. **VIDEO GAMES AND THE FUTURE OF LEARNING**

David Williamson, et al.

Phi Delta Kappan, October 2005, 7 pages

Video games are commonly looked upon as "merely entertainment" within the academic community, but corporations, the government, and the military have already recognized their value as educational tools, and schools need to catch up, say the authors, faculty members at the University of Wisconsin and founding members of the Games and Professional Practice Simulations Research Group. The authors contend that video games are an important learning tool because they let people participate in virtual communities where learners can understand complex concepts without losing the connection between abstract ideas and the real problems they can be used to solve. Educators face the challenge of developing games that provide a learning experience that will prepare students for "meaningful activity in our postindustrial, technology-rich, real world," say the authors.

12. **BUILDING CREATIVE COMMUNITIES: THE ROLE OF ART AND CULTURE**

John M. Eger

The Futurist, March/April 2006, 5 pages

John Eger, executive director of the International Center for Communications at San Diego State University and a leading authority on information technology, argues that cities must nurture the creative potential and community engagement of their citizens.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

13. **EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SECURITY AND PRIVACY**

Alicia Anderson

EDUCAUSE Quarterly, Vol. 28, no. 1, 2006, 6 pages

A series of information system hack-ins in several major American universities has served as a wake-up call to develop a comprehensive information security and privacy strategy. This is no simple task, however. It involves balancing a culture of openness with a need for security and privacy. Alicia Anderson, who recently completed the MBA program at MIT Sloan, points out that security and privacy are not IT issues – they demand a comprehensive, strategic and team approach to find effective solutions. She provides recommendations for action.

14. **THE INTERNET IS BROKEN**

David Talbot

Technology Review, December 2005/January 2006, 8 pages

Over the years, as Internet applications proliferated, companies and network engineers came up with ingenious and expedient patches, plugs, and workarounds. The result is a complex and convoluted affair which is difficult to manage and more fragile with each passing day. It also has fundamental flaws that can cost companies billions of dollars, impede innovation, and threaten national security. It's time for a clean-slate approach, declares David Talbot, *Technology Review's* chief correspondent.

15. **TRANSLATION BY MACHINE: A BRIDGE ACROSS THE MULTICULTURAL GAP**

David Belluomini

The Futurist, March/April 2006, 4 pages

Growing diversity is a challenge in many U.S. neighborhoods. This article explains how technologies for overcoming language barriers offer hope for facilitating better communications.

16. **THE RISE OF BLOGS**

K. Daniel Glover

National Journal, January 21, 2006, 10 pages

After gaining prominence in the media and the political arena, blogs, or web logs, are having a growing impact in policy-making circles. Activists have used blogs to influence debates on various issues. Daniel Glover, managing editor of National Journal's Technology Daily, takes a look at the trend. He also profiles 17 House and Senate members who created blogs in 2005, and 11 bloggers who have had the most impact in Washington.